

## Final Plan Unveiled at April 29th Community Meeting

Details of the final Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Project Plan were the focus of the community open house and meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Coronado High School.

Over 100 people reviewed open house displays, asked questions of and discussed Plan details with project engineers. The open house segment of the meeting was followed by a short presentation of the Plan and then participant questions and comments.

All participants were asked to complete a response form which asked, "Is there anything you would like the Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Project Team to know and understand about the Recommended Plan?" All of the word-for-word responses and all meeting materials can be found on the project website at [www.springsgov.com/camp-creek](http://www.springsgov.com/camp-creek). A summary of the responses can be found on page 3.

Many people indicated they liked the Plan. Among the reasons cited were the appearance of the 31<sup>st</sup> Street channel, that the design represents the comments received through the community meetings, and support for the detention area in the northern end of Garden of the Gods.

There were also concerns about the Plan. Some people were worried about traffic, parking and other impacts on 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Others reported concern for future maintenance, particularly of the 31<sup>st</sup> Street channel and vegetation. Worries about implementation of the Plan were also cited, as were concerns about pedestrian and cyclist safety along the 31<sup>st</sup> Street channel and about moving the bike route to 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

Other comments focused on the pluses and minuses of Plan impacts on Garden of the Gods and Rock Ledge Ranch, the need to focus on flood mitigation and on parking and safety around Howbert Elementary School.

Some people also expressed interest in being kept informed about progress in the design and implementation of the project.

The project team will review and address as many of the community's concerns as possible, given engineering and financial constraints.

The City has retained Wilson and Company to design the project.



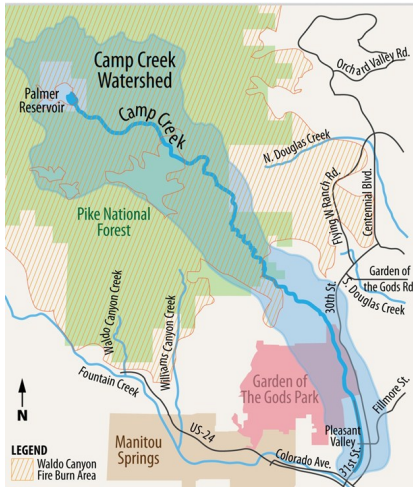
Participants in the April 29<sup>th</sup> open house review the displays explaining the final plan. (Photo courtesy of the *Westside Pioneer*.)

### Public Involvement Process Snapshot

- ◆ Interviews were conducted with 45 individuals, community groups and agencies to identify the initial list of issues.
- ◆ Four community meetings were held: October 22 and December 12, 2013, and February 25 and April 29, 2014.
- ◆ Over 250 separate individuals attended community meetings to identify issues and review concepts, alternatives, and the final Plan.
- ◆ Collectively, hundreds of hours were put in by local residents working together to find an acceptable solution to the Camp Creek drainage challenges. A job well done! Thank you.

# Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Plan Summary

## Features of the Final Plan



- ◆ A detention/sediment collection pond in the northern portion of Garden of the Gods Park
- ◆ Naturalistic channel stabilization in Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch
- ◆ Replacement of the Camp Creek bridge and widening the pavement at Gateway Road
- ◆ Re-alignment of Camp Creek near the chapel in Rock Ledge Ranch
- ◆ Some re-alignment of trails in Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch



- ◆ Replacement of culverts and bridges with larger bridges to minimize restrictions in the 31<sup>st</sup> Street channel
- ◆ Replacement of the existing concrete and rock-lined channel in 31<sup>st</sup> Street with a wider channel with a rock and boulder-lined, low-flow channel and flatter, grass and small shrub-lined upper side slopes
- ◆ A paved extension of the Foothills Trail within the 31<sup>st</sup> Street channel section
- ◆ Elimination of the bike lanes along 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Bike lanes will be relocated to 30<sup>th</sup> Street in the PPACG Non-Motorized Transportation Plan currently being developed
- ◆ Preservation of on-street parking along 31<sup>st</sup> Street except where residents opt for bump-outs in select locations to preserve trees in front of their lots
- ◆ Extension of the underground portion of Camp Creek from Bijou Street/Echo Lane to West Platte Avenue
- ◆ Potential re-alignment of the Camp Creek culvert at the confluence with Fountain Creek



## The Project Will...



- ◆ Reduce the risk of flooding in Pleasant Valley and Rock Ledge Ranch
- ◆ Improve emergency access to Pleasant Valley, Garden of the Gods and Rock Ledge Ranch during large flood events
- ◆ Remove residential and commercial properties in Pleasant Valley from the 100-year flood plain
- ◆ Reduce the amount of water flowing on 31<sup>st</sup> Street in large flood events
- ◆ Improve traffic safety and reduce flood risks associated with Gateway Road
- ◆ Manage erosion and sedimentation through Garden of the Gods

# Community Responds to the Plan

People who attended the April 29<sup>th</sup> open house/meeting were asked to complete a response form which asked, “Is there anything you would like the Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Project Team to know and understand about the Recommended Plan?” The 116 comments submitted on the forms reflected a combination of questions, concerns, and support for the overall plan and various plan elements. All comments were organized into topic categories.

The representative comments below are listed in descending order of the number of times that topic was mentioned by meeting attendees. The category with the highest number of mentions was “Like the Plan,” with 25 mentions. The second most-mentioned category dealt with traffic and parking issues on 31<sup>st</sup> Street, with 12 mentions, and so on. All of the verbatim comments submitted can be found at: [www.springsgov.com/campcreek](http://www.springsgov.com/campcreek).

## **Like the Plan (25 mentions)**

- Final concept is well thought-out. I am pleased.
- Captured the conversation of the prior meetings!

## **31<sup>st</sup> Street Traffic/Parking (12 mentions)**

- It moves traffic closer to the front doors of the houses along 31<sup>st</sup> Street.
- Will there be any impact to emergency vehicles?

## **31<sup>st</sup> Street Impacts (10 mentions)**

- The plan should include street lamps/lights.
- Design new ditch to irrigate itself.

## **Maintenance (8 mentions)**

- I’m concerned about maintaining the landscape—who will do it?
- The main concern is operation and maintenance of channel, but I would have that concern with any option.

## **Implementation (8 mentions)**

- Don’t tax current residents for improvements!
- Include this as one of the projects in the storm water master plan.

## **Garden/Ranch Impacts (7 mentions)**

- Thanks for protecting the Gateway Road entrance...
- Arched bridges at Rock Ledge should be installed.

## **Pedestrian/Cyclist Safety (7 mentions)**

- The bike lane crossing in the middle of the intersections is questionable.

## **Bike Lane/Route (5 mentions)**

- Removal of bicycle lanes from 31<sup>st</sup> Street before their incorporation on 30<sup>th</sup> Street should not be considered.

## **Flood/FEMA (5 mentions)**

- Please concentrate on protecting us from flood damage.

## **Howbert School Impacts (5 mentions)**

- School parking is a concern with cutting back size of street!

## **Continue Communication (4 mentions)**

- It would be nice to know how things are progressing...

## **Foothills Trail (4 mentions)**

- Foothills Trail—uncomfortable with how close it comes to 30<sup>th</sup> Street...

## **Garden of Gods Detention (4 mentions)**

- I wish the detention/sediment pond could be constructed before the upcoming flood season.

## **Trees on 31<sup>st</sup> Street (4 mentions)**

- Concern for loss of trees, bushes the homeowners have planted in the cutouts on 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Other (8 mentions)**

- I don’t think we should wait for disaster to happen before making future improvements.

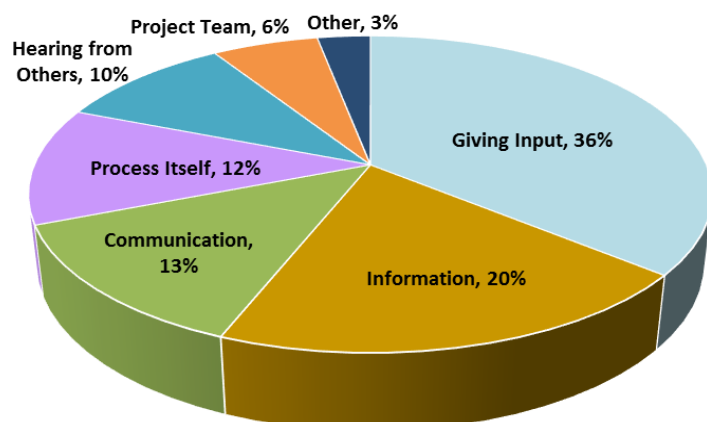
## Assessment of the Public Process

Those attending the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting were also asked what they thought of the public involvement process.

People said most often they appreciated the opportunity to be heard, the information provided, and the communication with them throughout the process.

All of the comments about the process can be found on the project website listed above.

**Greatest Value About Community Involvement Process**





# Implementation of the Drainage Improvement Plan

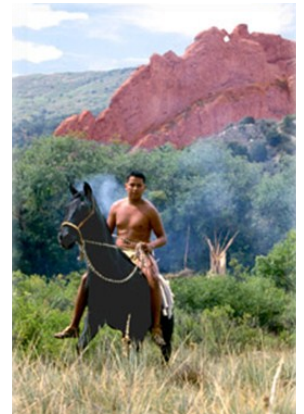
## Assessment Will Identify Cultural Resources in the Project Area

The City of Colorado Springs' goal is to respect and avoid impacts to any cultural resources in the project area. Cultural resources are generally defined as:

- archaeological materials
- landscapes
- historic sites
- traditional cultural places
- architectural features

The City has contracted with a firm which specializes in cultural resource assessment to conduct background research and an on-site cultural resource survey. Over the next few months, the firm will also prepare a report of findings and recommendations to the City.

The purpose of the investigation is to identify and record cultural resources that may be affected by project activities so that mitigation of impacts can occur. The assessment is required in order to receive federal funding for the project.



## Project Funding Is Likely to Come from a Variety of Sources



The City of Colorado Springs will actively pursue multiple funding sources in order to generate the money needed to construct the project and to maintain it once it's built.

### Potential Sources of Construction Funding

- \* City General Fund
- \* FEMA Grant
- \* National Resource Conservation Service Grant
- \* Grants From Other Sources
- \* Potential Sale of Bonds
- \* Potential Storm Water Fee

### Potential Sources of Maintenance Funding

- \* City General Fund
- \* Potential Storm Water Fee
- \* Private Sector Sponsorship

## Preliminary Design and Construction Schedule\*

Project Element	Design	Construction
North Garden of the Gods detention pond	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
Camp Creek stabilization through the Park	2014 - 2015	2016 - 2017
Gateway Road and culvert improvements	2014 - 2015	2016 - 2017
Bijou to Fontanero: 31 <sup>st</sup> St. culvert, channel	2014 - 2015	2017 - 2018
Fontanero to Water St. bridge: 31 <sup>st</sup> St. channel and roadway improvements	2014 - 2015	2018 - 2019
Water Street to Rock Ledge Ranch: 31 <sup>st</sup> St. bridge, channel and roadway improvements	2014 - 2015	2019 - 2020
Fountain Creek to Bijou St.: Camp Creek culvert improvements	2014 - 2015	2020 - 2021

*\*This schedule is contingent on securing funding for design and construction in a timely manner. Currently, only a portion of the design and none of the construction elements are fully funded.*

## What's Next?

Now that the plan is set, detailed design for construction can begin.

Throughout the design and construction phases, the project team will continue to communicate with those of you who participated in the process and with the local community.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Project Manager Mike Chaves at (719) 385-5408 or [mchaves@springsgov.com](mailto:mchaves@springsgov.com).